

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 04011 161646Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /076 W

-----170314Z 021432 /14

R 161542Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4827

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 4011

FOR: ARA/LA/MRSD/L

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJECT: PARALLEL UNIONISM IN MARITIME WORKERS

REFS: (A) 76 SANTIAGO 11645 (B) 74 SANTIAGO 6701

1. AT A GOVERNMENT-AUTHORIZED MEETING IN VALPARAISO MAY 11, SOME 28 PRO-GOVERNMENT TRADE UNION LEADERS FROM THREE FEDERATIONS AND 10 UNIONS ANNOUNCED THE REMOVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE MARITIME CONFEDERATION (COMACH) HEADED BY "DINAMICO" LEADER EDUARDO RIOS. THE STORY IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, BUT THE PRESS REPORTED THAT MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY ALL MARITIME UNION LEADERS INCLUDING RIOS, AND THAT RIOS WAS OUSTED BY A VOTE OF 90 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES. THE PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROUP ELECTED MARTIN BUSTOS, PRESIDENT OF THE STEVEDORES, AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF COMACH AND RENAMED TWO MEMBERS OF THE FORMER BOARD. PRESIDENT PINOCHET APPLAUDED THE CHANGE MAY 12 AND RECEIVED THE NEW LEADERS AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE (DIEGO PORTALES).

2. RIOS PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE NEWSPAPER STORY AS ABSOLUTELY FALSE. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 04011 161646Z

IN FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT DID NOT EVEN BELONG TO THE COMACH. RIOS STRESSED THAT HE WAS STILL PRESIDENT OF THE COMACH (AND OF COURSE HIS PRESIDENCY OF FEBACH -- PORT WORKERS -- WAS NOT AFFECTED). HE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A PARALLEL ORGANIZATION, WHICH HE CALLED "COMACHITA".

3. VICE-MINAB TOLD LABATT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOTHING

TO DO WITH THIS CHANGE. IN FACT, HE SAID COMACH DID NOT COME UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR BECAUSE IT WAS NOT REGISTERED AS A LABOR UNION. HE ADDED ALSO THAT THE REORGANIZATION DID NOT VIOLATE CHILEAN DECREES FORBIDDING ELECTIONS, SINCE THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS FORMED BY CONSENSUS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GOC DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PRESUMPTIVE RESTRUCTURING OF THE COMACH, ITS HAND IN THIS LABOR COUP IS OBVIOUS. THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE MEETING OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PEOPLE WHILE CONSISTENTLY DENYING THE REAL COMACH PERMISSION TO MEET ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. THE VALPARAISO MEETING TOOK PLACE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF ANY MEMBERS OF THE COMACH EXCEPT VICE-PRESIDENT ARTURO MAYORGA AND SEC-GENERAL ARIEL MONTOYA, WHO CONTINUE ON THE NEW BOARD. FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC BLESSED THE NEW GROUP BY RECEIVING IT THE FOLLOWING DAY.

5. THE GOC HAS TAKEN A HARD LINE WITH THE "DINAMICOS" BEFORE, BUT THE SIGNALS THEY ARE NOW GIVING ON THE EVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION MEETING ARE TOUGHER STILL. THE HEAVY-HANDED MANNER IN WHICH THE GOC IS TRYING TO DEPRIVE RIOS OF HIS ORGANIZATION COINCIDES WITH THE MAY 7 REMOVAL OF THE CITIZENSHIPS OF LUIS MENESES AND OTHERS OF THE CUT-IN EXILE (SANTIAGO 3835). IT WOULD ALMOST SEEM AS IF THE GOC WERE CHALLENGING THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR COMMUNITY. CHILEAN ACTIONS MAY HAVE RELEVANCE FOR RU POLICY AT THE ILO, SHOULD CHILE BE ATTACKED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AND SEEK US SUPPORT TO PREVENT POLITICIZATION IN THE ORGANIZATION. POPPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION RESULTS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, ALLEGATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA04011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0249
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770552/aaaabtek.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8554be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 11645, 74 SANTIAGO 6701
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2504042
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARALLEL UNIONISM IN MARITIME WORKERS
TAGS: ELAB, CI, NATIONAL MARITIME CONFED (COMACH), COMACH, NATIONAL FED OF STEVEDORES (FEMACH), FEMACH, DINAMICOS, (BUSTOS, MARTIN), (RIOS, EDUARDO)
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8554be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

